

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

Hurricane OPHELIA

SITUATION REPORT # 5

0700 HOURS September 15, 2005

WEATHER

Forecast:

A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect North of the North Carolina/Virginia border to Cape Charles Light Virginia, including the Chesapeake Bay south of New Point Comfort. The following cities and counties are under a Tropical Storm Warning: Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Hampton, Poquoson, Hampton, Newport News and York County. Hurricane force winds extend outward up to 40 miles from the center and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 140 miles. This morning minor coastal flooding will be possible along the southern Chesapeake Bay in southeast Virginia. A general storm surge of 1 foot above normal can be expected in southeast Virginia. Minor coastal flooding is expected in southeast Virginia, with moderate flooding possible in Virginia Beach and along the Nansemond River where a 1 to 3 foot surge is expected. Along the southern shore of the Chesapeake Bay including Norfolk, Hampton, Portsmouth and Poquoson, a surge of 1 to 2 feet is expected. Sustained winds to 20 to 30 mph with gusts to 45 mph are expected to overspread extreme southeast Virginia during the mid morning hours with the highest winds and wind gusts expected to be near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay and potentially over parts of Norfolk and Virginia Beach. Scattered power outages are possible due to the strong winds. The heaviest rainfall is expected to occur from this morning through the late afternoon hours in southeast Virginia. Rainfall of 1 to 3 inches is possible over portions of southeast Virginia.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia EOC is at Hurricane Readiness Condition 1 as of 1700 hours on September 13th. For County EOC activations see Protective Actions below.

State of Emergency: Governor Warner's State of Emergency remains in effect.

Protective Actions: EOC activations: City of Chesapeake EOC partially activated as of 1600 hours on September 14th.

State of Emergencies: James City County and City of Chesapeake.

Evacuations: Accomack County and the Town of Chincoteague have called for voluntary evacuation of campgrounds.

Schools Closed: None at this time.

Fixed Nuclear

Facilities: None at this time.

OPERATIONS SECTIONS

State Warning Point: Maintaining contact with local Emergency Operation Centers. Checking equipment and supplies as scheduled, reviewing the daily log and developing the staff schedule.

Local Liaison: Prepared to receive and respond to requests for assistance from the localities and continuing outreach efforts.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

Firefighting: Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFFP) and Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOP)
ESF 4 Reviewing weather advisories. Staffing the VEOC.

**Health & Medical:
ESF 8**

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Eastern Region Districts on standby to support Local EOC and/or shelter operations in (Ophelia) affected areas. Regional Offices continuing event surveillance, conference calls. Virginia Association of Nonprofit Homes for the Aging and Virginia Health Care Association (VHCA) have alerted membership in preparation for Ophelia. Eastern Region hospitals have taken standard precautions for hurricane preparedness relative to power, water, supplies, evacuation and other concerns. Regional Hospital Coordinating Center (RHCC) at Riverside and Sentara Norfolk General are not stood up, but can be on short notice. Continuing ESF8 Staffing support at VEOC, currently scheduled through Saturday morning. Monitoring storm track and review Hurricane Response Plan checklists. Monitoring Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) Taskforce readiness. Reviewing VDH example Public Information Advisories, Fact Sheets and News Releases for possible issuance. Continuing verification of Southeast Virginia Field Office and drinking water facility contact information, and confirmation of preparedness activities. Monitoring status of shelter openings and providing Public Health services as needed. Preparing to track infrastructure losses (water, power) at healthcare facilities. Preparing to issue Public Information Advisories, Fact Sheets and News Releases as appropriate. Preparing to contact restaurants on reopening guidelines, inspections, etc.

**Search & Rescue:
ESF 9**

VDEM Search And Rescue (SAR)

Continuing to hold resources at the ready for Hurricane Ophelia response. Coordinating immunizations with VDH. If activated, resource requests will be filled with assets located in Regions I, III and VI. Will backfill Region I assets with Regions II and VII.

**Public Safety
& Security:
ESF 13**

Virginia State Police (VSP)

75 Troopers, 5 Supervisors and a swift water rescue team sent to Division 5 Headquarters in Chesapeake. VSP has assigned 16 of the 75 to the Eastern Shore, bringing the total number on the shore to 29.

Virginia National Guard (VNG)

78 soldiers from the 276th Engineers have been placed on State Active Duty and pre-positioned to respond to Hurricane Ophelia at Norfolk and Onancock armories.

National Guard EOC at Fort Pickett is conducting mission analysis and planning to support a potential request from VDEM and FEMA to assist in distribution of food, water and ice in the event Ophelia makes landfall and causes widespread loss of water and power.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

**Agriculture &
Natural Resources:
ESF11**

**Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)
Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC)**

Food commodities are available in schools and distribution centers. VDACS has identified 6 distribution centers throughout the Commonwealth and checking to determine if distribution centers can transport commodities to affected areas. VDACS could not release food for delivery to North Carolina without USDA approval. Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC) reported that all 3 field kitchens are unavailable due to renovation of permanent feeding facilities; however, 300 cases of Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's) at 12 per case, are immediately available.

**Mass Care:
ESF 6**

Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), American Red Cross (ARC), Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)

Communicating with local emergency managers and local social services departments to prepare for sheltering if required. Assessing mobile feeding capabilities. Three church kitchens in the Tidewater area have backup generator power and may be able to assist with feeding operations if needed. MRE's/Heater meals are available for immediate feeding needs. Food banks have been put on alert and are reviewing vendor agreements for food. VOAD has assessed the availability of mobile kitchens for mass feeding operations. Baptist General Association of Virginia has placed five mobile feeding units on standby to be placed as needed in Accomack, Newport News and Virginia Beach. The Salvation Army has 2 large fixed kitchens in Norfolk and one available canteen. The Food Bank of Southeast Virginia has four trucks available to haul dry or frozen food housed at the Norfolk Food Bank. Identified 23 "Kid Cafes" that operate out of Girls and Boys Clubs with capability to prepare meals. The Catholic Diocese of Richmond can prepare meals at 2-3 schools, and three large parish approved kitchen facilities.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

Transportation: **Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)**
ESF 1 Mid-Town Tunnel testing completed and successful. Reviewing weather advisories. Providing VDEM with GIS staff support for the next few days. Reviewing hurricane preparedness checklists with emphasis on the Hampton Roads area. Tiger teams are on standby. Will provide resource support as requested.

Telecommunications & IT: **Virginia information Technology Agency (VITA)**
ESF 2 Reviewing weather advisories. Deployed 26 laptops from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) to VDEM for use in the EOC. Staffing the VEOC. Planning to contact all partner agencies in tidewater area, through Enterprise Service Director (ESDs) and Service Level Directors (SLDs) and ensuring notification and readiness procedures are properly communicated to them. Monitoring Verizon for outages in the Tidewater area.

Energy Group: **State Corporation Commission (SCC)**
ESF 12 Monitoring readiness of electric co-op providers (including: Mecklenburg Electric, Southside Electric, and Community Electric).

Dominion Virginia Power (DVP)
Resources are on stand-by in the Eastern region. Resources are ready to be deployed from the Central and Northwest regions of the state. Mutual aid resources are also available.

LOGISTICS SECTION

Resource Support: **VDEM / FEMA**
ESF 7 Development of a FEMA Assistance Request Form (ARF) for federal assistance to authorize the use of Fort Eustis assets (such as a Local Staging Unit) to establish a transportation link between the mainland and eastern shore Virginia. Mobilization of five statewide staging areas and numerous local distribution areas in Region 5. Sandbagging material is on stand-by. Providing support to the Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT), meals to the EOC staff, replenishing supplies, and completing the VEOC staff directory. Preparing to process statewide mutual aid and EMAC requests.

PLANNING SECTION

Emergency Management: **VDEM**
ESF 5 Continuing to update, produce and distribute daily situation reports and Incident Action Plans. Reviewing tropical storm and general weather conditions and providing analysis. Coordinating with the FEMA planning section. Monitoring conference calls with localities, state agencies and U.S. Coast Guard. Coordinating potential Commonwealth impacts with the National Weather Service (NWS) and the National Hurricane Center (NHC). Analyzing information from available sources and providing briefings to Command Staff, Branch Chiefs, and ESF's. Monitoring Action Tracking entries and providing technical assistance to state agencies and localities as needed.

FINANCE SECTION

Emergency Management: **VDEM**
ESF 5 Providing reservist availability, processing timesheets, aiding in staffing, tracking expenditures, procuring equipment and supplies for the VEOC and other response locations.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Public Information: **VDEM**
ESF 15 Providing outreach to the media (including Hispanic media) on response to Hurricane Ophelia. Staffing and managing the Virginia Public Inquiry Center (VPIC). Updating the VDEM website with response and recovery information. Providing local and state public information outreach.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Region I: No activity

Region II: No activity

Region III: No activity

Region IV: No activity

Region V: Accomack County and the Town of Chincoteague have called for voluntary evacuation of campgrounds. This is a precautionary measure. The localities are not reporting any problems at this time.

Region VI: No activity

Region VII: No activity

FEMA

Emergency Response Team – Advance (ERT-A) from FEMA Region 3 is in place.

FEMA USAR Task Forces from Fairfax (Task Force-1) and Maryland (Task Force-1) deployed to Virginia Beach.

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